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The Week in Washington D.C. - February 11, 2013

Below you will find a listing of federal legislative activities that, in addition to federal budget discussions, the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of February 11, 2013.

House Floor Action

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

On Tuesday, the House convenes at noon for Morning Hour debate.

Legislation to be considered under suspension of the rules:

HR 235 - The Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act. This bill would provide demonstration grants to states with a shortage of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to streamline state-licensing requirements for military veteran EMTs to prevent unnecessary duplication in training. The measure directs that a total of \$1 million through FY 2018 be provided for this Health and Human Services Department grant program from funds previously authorized for area health education centers. In order for a state to be eligible for the program, it must demonstrate that it has a shortage of emergency medical personnel.

State of the Union Address — President Obama will deliver his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday night at approximately 9 PM EST. The House is expected to recess by 5:30 PM to allow a security sweep and other preparations, and the joint session will begin at approximately 8:35 PM. Watch an enhanced version of the President's speech with charts, graphs and data only on www.whitehouse.gov/SOTU.

Wednesday - Friday, February 13 - 15, 2013

HR 592 – Federal Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act of 2013. This bill adds community centers, including houses of worship exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code, as private nonprofit facilities that are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster relief and emergency assistance after a major disaster or emergency. It provides that a church, synagogue, mosque, temple or other house of worship, and private nonprofit facilities operated by religious organizations, would be eligible for disaster assistance without regard to the religious character of the facility or the primary religious use of the facility.

House Hearings

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

The Congressional Budget Office's Budget and Economic Outlook— Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Energy 10 AM EST. View the live webcast here.

American Energy Outlook: Technology, Market, and Policy Drivers – Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Energy 10 AM EST. View the live webcast here.

Honoring the Commitment: Overcoming Barriers to Quality Mental Health Care for Veterans – Committee on Veterans' Affairs 10 AM EST.

Influenza: Perspective on Current Season and Update on Preparedness – Committee on Energy and Commerce | Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations | 10 AM EST. View the live webcast here.

Federal Role in America's Infrastructure – Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure | 11 AM EST. The Committee's agenda this Congress includes addressing the need for a new Water Resources Development Act, reauthorizing passenger rail safety and reform legislation, and preparing for the next surface transportation reauthorization. The Committee's first hearing of 2013 will help inform the panel's work and highlight the federal role in strengthening the nation's infrastructure. View the live webcast here.

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Framework for Building Partnership Capacity Programs and Authorities to Meet 21st Century Challenges – House Committee on Armed Services 10 AM EST. View the live webcast here.

Sequestration: Examining Employers' WARN Act Responsibilities – House Education and the Workforce Committee 10 AM EST. Thursday's hearing will give members an opportunity to discuss the application of the WARN Act to sequestration and obtain answers to questions surrounding the administration's controversial guidance. View the live webcast here.

Our Nation of Builders: Manufacturing in America – House Committee on Energy and Commerce | Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade| 10 AM EST. View the live webcast here.

SGR: Data, Measures and Models; Building a Future Medicare Physician Payment System – House Committee on Energy and Commerce | Subcommittee on Health | 10:15 AM EST. View the live webcast here.

Unintended Consequences: Is Government Effectively Addressing the Unemployment Crisis? – House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform | 2 PM EST.

Friday, February 15, 2013

The Role of the States in Protecting the Environment Under Current Law – House Committee on Energy and Commerce | Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade | 9:30 AM EST. View the live webcast here.

Senate Hearings

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

HR 307 Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2013 and the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early (PREEMIE) Act | 10 AM EST.